

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AF-08 NEA-10 MMO-01 /078 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO-JEBURGESS:ML

APPROVED BY PM/ISO - GTCHURCHILL

PM/ISP - COL. MATHISON

EUR/NE - MR. SHUMATE (SUBS)

H - D.GELBER (SUBS)

-----250703Z 091850 /21

R 241536Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US,UK,IO, MORG

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA FACILITIES

1. FYI. CONSIDERING THE LOSS OF AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE FACILITIES ORIGINALLY AVAILABLE IN THAILAND, AND REVISED OVERALL STAFFING PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA, DOD HAS ESTABLISHED A REQUIREMENT FOR APPROXIMATELY 800 MEN ON PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA; VICE THE 600 MAN FIGURE HITHERTO DISCUSSED WITH THE UK. THE NEW DOD REQUIREMENTS CALL FOR AN ADDITIONAL 200 MAN BARRACKS, WHICH IS INCLUDED IN THE FY 1978-79 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION BILL NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE CONGRESS. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONING OF THIS FACILITY. WE WILL NOT TAKE ANY IMPLEMENTING ACTION ON THE BARRACKS UNTIL AN INDIAN OCEAN POLICY REVIEW IS COMPLETED. END FYI.

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2. REQUEST YOU APPROACH APPROPRIATE LEVELS IN FCO, STATING THAT WE HAVE REVIEWED OUR OVERALL STAFFING PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA IN LIGHT OF AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE AND OTHER SUPPORT FUNCTIONS, AND HAVE DETERMINED THAT CURRENTLY FORECAST LEVELS OF OPERATION WILL REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY 800 MEN ON PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT THERE. WE ARE REQUESTING FUNDS FOR

ADDITIONAL BARRACKS FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA TO HOUSE
APPROXIMATELY 200 MEN OVER AND ABOVE PREVIOUS PLANNING
FIGURES. WE HOPE THAT HMG WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO VIEW
THIS STAFFING PLAN FAVORABLY.

3. BRITISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON WILL BE INFORMED OF PARA
TWO INFORMATION ABOVE.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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